

Motion # 2 (102)

Late Backup

Stakeholders' Feedback on the Brackenridge Tract

On July 12, 2008, the City hosted a neighborhood plan meeting with stakeholders to receive input about the future of the Tract. Below is a summary of the issues and desires of the stakeholders who attended that meeting. This summary does not include any input from the owner of the Tract. This summary shall in no way be construed as acquiescence or agreement by any party on any of the issues listed. The Tract is excluded from the Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan. PLJM L (cap)

1. Preserve Lions Municipal Golf Course and allow the City of Austin to take ownership and preserve as a public golf course.
2. Preserve the Biological Field Lab and ensure that any adjacent development does not impact the field lab.
3. Preserve the West Austin Youth Association and refocus lights away from neighborhood.
4. Preserve the student housing at the Brackenridge and Colorado Apartments. There is interest in adding more student apartments at the Brackenridge and Colorado Apartments as long as they do not worsen traffic. Also, housing for the elderly and empty nesters is desired as long as it is affordable and is geared toward allowing residents of the neighborhood to stay in the neighborhood.
5. The Deep Eddy Tract, if chosen to be redeveloped, should be redeveloped in such a way that is harmonious with the surrounding neighborhood.
6. The Boat Town and Park Street Tracts should remain unchanged. Any proposed redevelopment should be harmonious with the surrounding neighborhood.
7. Keep a grocery store at the Safeway parcel but make improvements.
8. Any new development should be limited to no more than four stories except for development adjacent to the existing neighborhood which should have lower building heights and separated by a natural buffer including trees and vegetation.
9. Add more "mom and pop" stores at existing commercial areas and at student apartments. Have neighborhood scaled retail and mix of uses along Lake Austin Boulevard where already developed.
10. No intensive retail, employment or high tech centers that attract from a regional area.
11. Add usable greenspace such as playgrounds, community gardens, walking trails, teaching spaces, and other public uses in order to encourage more activities and events that include the surrounding neighborhood.
12. The Gables should add public amenities so that it connects with the adjacent neighborhood.
13. Add a path linking the golf course to WAYA.
14. No additional driveways on Enfield are desired.
15. Make Lake Austin Boulevard a "real" boulevard or Complete Street with no parking on the street (with a particular need to address Field Lab employees parking on the north side adjacent to the golf course), wider sidewalks, more crossings, improved transit service, shade trees, attractive landscaping, a connection to the Trail at Lady Bird Lake, and extending bike lanes to Enfield Road as well as providing better separation from vehicle lanes.

Stakeholders' Feedback on the Brackenridge Tract continued

16. Extend the Trail at Lady Bird Lake to Red Bud Isle and avoid environmentally sensitive land such as near the Biological Field Lab. Establish a buffer allowing no development along the edge of the lake to protect the natural resources. Provide a publicly owned and natural access to the lake.
17. Protect the neighborhood from an increase in traffic, especially considering the limited capacity of the road network. Prior to any development, a traffic study is desired.
18. Need for a sidewalk around the entirety of the Golf Course and add street trees between the street and sidewalk where feasible. Also, if feasible, add a walking path around the perimeter of the golf course and add a trail along Schull Branch. In addition, access between O. Henry Middle School and WAYA should be improved.
19. Replace invasive trees with native trees.

At other meetings, additional issues and desires were also identified:

1. Expand Eilers Park into the Brackenridge Tract.
2. Conduct a tree survey to determine whether there are any trees that meet the City's tree protection requirements.
3. Redevelopment should avoid environmentally sensitive resources such as protected trees, wetlands, and endangered or threatened plant or wildlife habitat. Stormwater management should comply with City of Austin stormwater regulations.
4. Plans for Brackenridge Tract should each include plans for construction of a new elementary school and should consider adding a middle school and high school if the tract is developed in accordance with proposed density.
5. Increased density on the Brackenridge Tract should be addressed with additional transit and shuttle services connecting the Brackenridge Tract to the central downtown area.
6. The design of any redevelopment should be compact, mixed use, and walkable so that all modes of travel are maximized. Redevelopment should result in harmonious residential development near the existing residential areas. Preserving significant amounts of invaluable urban green space and its remarkable trees is encouraged.

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